

Hawaiian Gazette

SEMI-WEEKLY.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1894.

Now is the time for tourists to flock to the islands. There is increased volcanic activity on Hawaii, and a great eruption is due, presumably from the summit crater of Mokuaweoweo. The carriage road to the Volcano is about completed, and the comforts of a modern hotel enable guests to "take in" the grandest sight on earth with as much ease as from an opera box.

THE New York State Assembly has passed resolutions congratulating Hawaii on having secured its freedom, and the President for having abandoned his policy regarding this country. This is simply one demonstration of sympathy among the many which come to the Provisional Government, publicly and privately, from all parts of the United States.

THE prospect of a naval battle between the contending forces of Brazil seems to be steadily increasing, and the world begins to wonder why it has not taken place before this. A Boston paper calls attention to the fact that when it does come it will be the first important naval engagement since 1866. This means that there has been no adequate opportunity to test the efficiency of modern ships since the methods of naval warfare were revolutionized.

SHE MEANT WHAT SHE SAID.

We publish in our local columns this morning some fresh evidence upon the intention of the ex-Queen. She has endeavored to make it appear that she uses the word "decapitation" in a purely Pickwickian sense, meaning thereby something very much milder and vaguer, such as banishment, confiscation, or merely punishment in general. The fact that her organs have recommended decapitation in its original and unsullied form, shows that the text of Mrs. Dominis' declaration must be read without the gloss of any humane commentator. Whatever faults may be laid to the charge of Mrs. Dominis in her interviews with Mr. Willis, the vague and inexact use of language is not one of them. She has evidently chosen her words with care and precision, and when she made use of that euphemistic derivative, "decapitation," she meant plain Anglo-Saxon beheading.

IN THEIR LAST DITCH.

Indications are numerous that the royalists are falling back upon desperate expedients in their attempts to prevent the wholesale disintegration of their faction. Just as soon as the natives are satisfied that the United States Government is not going to restore Liliuokalani, they will come into the annexation camp in shoals. The royalist practice throughout the past year has been to preserve their fidelity by feeding their hopes. This treatment has succeeded as a temporary expedient, but the diet is unquestionably getting thin.

The attachment of the natives to the monarchy is simply the survival of a feudal relation, and springs from a mixture of ignorance and fear. It is astonishing that men who make a profession of intelligence should treat a sentiment having such a root as though it were the deliberate choice of freemen.

The natives who favor restoration do so primarily because Liliuokalani tells them they must. Their attitude is an expression, not of their will, but of hers. They are practically hypnotized subjects, and as frequently happens in such cases, the hypnosis is in the interest of some one besides the unhappy subject. Annexation will wake them from the hypnotic dream and make out of the subservient tool an independent freeman.

LOW WAGES AND CHEAP LABOR.

A gentleman commenting on an editorial in yesterday's ADVERTISER tells a story which is worth quoting. The ADVERTISER yesterday drew attention to the important economical truth that low wages do not mean low cost of labor.

Thos. Brassey, the father of Lord Brassey, who visited these islands some years since in the yacht Sunbeam, was one of the largest railroad contractors in the world, employing sometimes as many as 80,000 laborers. He expressed it as his opinion, based on long practical experience, that wages were the same all the world over.

This, of course, is in form a paradox, but it states, with that epigrammatic terseness which always sacrifices a certain degree of truth to point, an economical fact of great importance. The world's price of commodities constantly tends to be the same, and labor is a commodity like the rest. The price which Hawaiian sugar commands in San Francisco is practically made in London. An artificial monopoly like the Sugar Trust may for a short time depress the rate by a quarter or even a half cent, but in the long run the world's price rules the world over.

A leading Eastern manufacturer was accustomed to say that with raw iron laid down in New York at the London price, he could build as good ships and as cheap ships with American labor at \$3.50 per day, as his English or Scotch rival paying only four shillings. Mr. Armstrong says that Hampton farmers who can get colored labor at \$20 a month, are glad to get men from the North at \$50. This is not, however, true of all of them, but only of those who are not victims of the fallacy that low wages necessarily mean high profits.

The labor system of Hawaii stands in need of a radical reorganization, a reorganization which must be based on the principle that a rise in the price of labor does not of itself connote a rise in the cost of labor. Whatever increases the efficiency of the laborer decreases the cost of labor to the employer. He gets more units of production for the same expenditure. What we in Hawaii have to do, is to lessen the cost of labor to the planter, not by trying to lower the rate of wages, but by getting laborers who will do more than those we have, because they are stronger, more intelligent, and more willing. The laborer must be interested in his work by giving him an interest in the product.

Reforms like these, however, must in the nature of the case proceed slowly. Impatient enthusiasts overlook this fact. They think they can revolutionize the world in their closets. In point of fact the industrial improvements which we need, and which, under the conditions that are coming we must have, can only be achieved by the slow and patient labor of practical men.

IT WAS NOT PRIVATE.

We publish this morning, at the request of Mr. T. H. Davies, copies of the correspondence which has just passed between the Attorney-General and himself. It is not our purpose to comment upon this correspondence. Our readers have the facts and can pass upon them for themselves. It may not, however, be amiss to draw attention to an error into which Mr. Davies would seem to have fallen. He claims that the Attorney-General has been guilty of a breach of confidence in repeating a private conversation.

The simple truth is that there was nothing "private" in the conversation, beyond the fact that it took place between two persons. Either party was at liberty to repeat as much of it as he saw fit, in the absence of an implied or express understanding to the contrary. In this case, the matter under discussion was one of public interest. Mr. Smith had not been acting in his private capacity at all, and it was altogether within his discretion, as a public officer, to make known as much of the interview in question as he saw fit.

AN INFORMAL VOTE.

The Annexation Club has decided to hold an election, the object of which is to place in nomination candidates for the vacancy which will probably occur in the Advisory Council. A mass meeting will be held Tuesday evening to make what may be described as a sort of preliminary nominations. The names of the candidates set up at this meeting will be printed on the ballots and, of course, no others can be voted on. The balloting will take place Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and at the close of the poll Saturday night, the votes will be counted. The election will probably be open.

This idea of holding an election by the Annexation Club is a good one. The result of the vote will afford some indication of the sentiments of the Government's supporters in this city. The royalist papers will, of course, join in a chorus of rage when they find that nobody is permitted to vote who is not a good annexationist and a member of the club. No doubt their rage would have some excuse if this function of the Annexation Club were intended as an election in the strict sense, as a legal and authoritative expression of the popular will. In establishing a representative form of government in these islands, political rights will not be confined to any party or race. But the election to be held this week, is not an election in the legal sense of the term at all, and is not so intended by anyone. It will simply take the sense of the club on a matter of public interest. It will not place the Government under the smallest obligation to select the man who may happen to receive a plurality or even a majority of the votes cast. The Government is already under the strictest obligation to consult and respect in every manner consistent with the general welfare, the sentiments of its supporters.

The royalists then may howl as loud as they choose. They have no just grievance.

THOSE SUSPICIONS.

"It is a Chinese puzzle—this extreme suspicion in various Annexation quarters, of the American League."—Star.

We are inclined to think that our contemporary unconsciously exaggerates the amount of the suspicion above referred to. There do not seem to be indications of any deep-rooted feeling of the sort. What there is however arises naturally and inevitably from the fact that the American League is a secret organization. There is a tendency in human nature to suspect secrecy. The tendency often exhibits itself in a very absurd and fatuous way, but it nevertheless has a rational basis. The fact that the League is secret of itself engenders suspicion. There is a perfectly simple way of dispelling this suspicion. Throw the meetings of the society open to the public and publish the list of its members.

WHICH IS IT?

The league expects to have the Councils elect a man whom it shall choose.—Hawaiian Star Feb. 10.

It is not the purpose of the party to "name two or three men" for the consideration of the Councils. It is to elect one man to take his seat there. He will go to the capital with as good credentials as any other man under its roof possesses and we warrant that he will fill the vacancy.—Hawaiian Star Feb. 12.

There seems to be some ambiguity here, which the public would be glad to have cleared up. Is the candidate of the American League to be placed in the Councils, or the candidate of the Annexation Club? The election is to be held, as we understand it by the club, and it does not appear that all the members of the league will even be entitled to vote, as no one votes except members of the club. The league "expects" its man to be chosen, but the Star "warrants" that the candidate of the Annexation Club is to be the coming man. Is it arranged beforehand that the chosen of the

league is also to be the best beloved of the club?

The puzzle is certainly a hard one, and we write from a sincere desire for information in the matter.

THEY CANNOT STAND IT.

The continental papers are again reviving the various projects for a general disarmament, as the military burden grows heavier year by year. That a disarmament of some kind must eventually come no one can doubt who has watched the growth of militarism in Europe for the past few years. There has been no time in the century—there has probably never been a time in the history of the civilized world, when the regular military burden was as great as it is now in all the great nations of Europe. France was exhausted in 1815, but it was after twenty-five years of almost incessant warfare. Italy is almost as exhausted now, after practically as many years of unbroken peace.

The rich nations, such as the United States, England, and even France, do not feel the tremendous drain of the military budget as the poorer nations do. It is not customary to speak of the United States in this connection, but her pension list puts the cost of her military establishment on the same level as that of the leading powers of Europe. In England the taxes are grumbled about, but little felt, and the question of disarmament excites there no special interest. In Germany, however, the military burden is heavy enough to make sore backs, while in Italy, it puts in question the financial solvency of the nation.

From the economical point of view, the army is simply a collection of drones which not only gather no honey themselves, but lessen the common store by the amount required for their own subsistence. Military establishments do not check consumption, on the contrary in many ways they increase it—while they do withdraw a tremendous factor from the forces of production. When we consider that military service devotes to an unproductive activity three years of youth, three years when the labor capacity is at its maximum, it will probably seem no exaggeration to say that these establishments deduct ten per cent. from the national wealth.

"We live in the Nineteenth Century," the German Emperor once said, "under the sign of commerce." He might have added, with literal truth, that we live under the sign of fierce competition, industrial inequality, labor wars and dynamite outrages. In such an age it is easy to see that a difference in production of ten per cent. may make all the difference between wealth and misery; between harmonious social relations on the one hand, and anarchy on the other. It is easy to see that under such conditions, a system cannot survive which condemns a large fraction of the population to industrial sterility. Militarism must go, not because it is out of harmony with Christian teachings, or condemned by peace societies, but because it checks the mighty wheels of trade, and condemns men to starvation.

THE PLOT THICKENS.

We publish this morning a set of resolutions, by which it appears that the Coconut Club demands representation in the Councils.

And who, pray, is the Coconut Club? What is it composed of and what is it for? We never saw a list of its members, nor read an account of its transactions. According to its own statement, it knows where the milk in the coconut is to be found, and it does not take a very shrewd guesser to opine that about all the society was ever organized for was to extract the milk.

It is about time that this impertinent folly should cease. The Coconut Club, indeed! The next thing we shall have a series of resolutions and demands from the Roast Pig Hui.

THE SITUATION.

The essential features of the political situation have not changed since the last mail was sent to the Coast. It is settled that Mr. Hatch will accept the position of Minister of Foreign Affairs, so that there will be a vacancy in the Councils. A candidate for this vacancy will be named by ballot in the Annexation Club. This action is taken as a result of the very natural and proper wish on the part of the Government supporters to have a more direct influence upon its councils. This wish meets with nothing but the most cordial sympathy from the Government, which has constantly desired to maintain the closest relations with the people. The good understanding is not likely to be disturbed. On the contrary, the holding of an election like the present should give fresh solidarity to the relations between the Government and the Annexation Club.

The royalists have not yet abandoned their hopes of a miraculous intervention in their favor, and continue to plot and plan against the Government. Every week brings them a new disappointment, but they rise after each rebuff with a buoyancy which bears strong witness to the lightness of their hearts and heads.

Business continues to be very dull, and there is no immediate prospect of any great improvement.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The natural resources of the Hawaiian Islands have been developed to only a fraction of their extent. Their wealth lies chiefly in agricultural products, for which the fertile soil and good climate are favorable. Other resources, such as geographical location with reference to commerce, climatic advantages for invalids, and beautiful scenery are not so immediately controlled and made a source of profit as the products of the soil, but they should claim a share of our attention and should be the means of bringing many visitors to these islands. At present there is not so much as a hitching post or a shelter against the violent wind and frequent rain, at the famous Nuuanu Fall.

Less than fifty years ago it was thought that wheat could not be raised in California without irrigation. Later it was found that irrigation was not necessary, but even then only the valley lands were considered available. Still later it was found that with proper cultivation some of the hill lands held the moisture best. The present extent and value of the fruit industry in California has been attained after a vast amount of experiment and interchange of ideas. Other localities have had similar experience, and have thus increased the number and the amount of their products.

Hawaii, particularly, needs crops which require less water than do sugar cane and rice, crops which will utilize the large areas of fertile land which have hitherto remained uncultivated. The efforts of Mr. Marsden, Commissioner of Agriculture, are in the right direction, and they have good prospect of success. The list of imports contains several products which should be raised here.

Sugar will continue to be the leading crop. There is opportunity for improvement of methods in its production. For this and for other crops the proposed experiment station is of great importance. Rotation of crops cannot be resorted to in this country as conveniently as elsewhere, and other means are required to restore to the soil the ingredients removed by continuous production.

The aggregate rainfall is abundant, but its irregular distribution as to time and locality makes the available water supply comparatively small. There are few favorable sites for large storage reservoirs. Nearly the entire water supply for irrigation has been taken directly from the daily flow of streams, springs, and artesian wells. There is opportunity for further water development. Ewa plantation is a notable example of irrigation by pumping from artesian wells.

Within the past year five artesian wells have been bored at the Waianae plantation, and it is proposed to double its product of sugar. In the Waianae District water flows to waste even in the driest season, and water can readily be obtained in large quantity from artesian wells. By pumping to only half the elevation as at Ewa, the area of sugar land can be doubled. In both these districts, as well as in Ewa and Koolau, there are large areas of fertile, arable land with moisture insufficient for sugar cane and rice, but sufficient for other valuable crops.

To make lands available, they should be made accessible. Roads and railways are needed, and it will pay, both directly and indirectly, to build them. The introduction of such new crops as above indicated, with the probable increase in sugar production will soon more than double the present traffic.

Much more than this will occur. This is only an example of what can readily be done. The other islands of the group afford equal opportunities for development. During the dull times we may at least take an account of stock.

C. H. KLUEGEL.

Honolulu, Feb. 10, 1894.

There was a heavier downfall of rain yesterday than at any time since last November. W. R. Castle reports 1.85 inches up to 9 p.m., while the rain gauge of C. J. Lyons shows a fall of three inches at Punahou.

WOES OF A PRIVATE SOLDIER.

A Big Kick From a Member of Company E.

NO POACHED EGGS FOR THE MASSES.

One of the Guards at the Executive Building Grumbles About the Hardships of a Soldier's Life—He Would Rather be an Officer.

The following letter has been received from a private soldier of Company E. It is reproduced, with all its complaints, in toto:

MR. EDITOR: In order to correct the belief of some of your readers that the position held by the enlisted men of the National Guard of Hawaii, is a snap, I give you the following synopsis of how one man puts in his time:

Reveille at 5 a.m., roll-call at 5:15, guard mount at 5:50. Here his day's work begins—Breakfast from 6 to 8:30, and then he is held for duty in the guard room. I may as well state how that while on guard he is not allowed to leave the guard room, that is, the hall in the basement of the executive building except under the command of a non-commissioned officer of the guard. From the guard room he goes on post as a sentry from 8 to 10. Ten to 11 in the guard-room, when he is marched over to dinner. At 11 he is stationed on the rear veranda, where he stays until 4 o'clock. Here he must wear his belt and be ready to fall in at a second's warning.

For the accommodation of 16 men there are here four chairs without backs, and one wooden bench long enough to seat four men by crowding—the balance sit on the floor or hang their feet over the balustrade.

At 4 he is returned to the guard room sticks his gun in the rack, and hangs his belt on it. Now he can't lie down on a bench or the floor until 5:30, when he is marched over to the kitchen once more. (Back to the guard room). At 5:30 he passes the time as well as he can until 8 o'clock, when he again does two hours sentry duty. At 10 back to the guard room, reached generally by 10:20. Now he can go to sleep for three hours. There are 20 men in the guard room at night, and 4 single mattresses for all. The others must pick out a clean spot on the floor and spread their one poor blanket, and thus get what rest they can. The air is always foul, and were it not for the strong draught through, the long hall would be unbearable.

The new doctor threatened to remedy this state of affairs, but someone evidently put a "flea in his ear." He dropped it. At 1:30 A. M. he is called by the Sergeant of the guard to get ready to go on post. From 2 until 4 he again does duty as sentry, and at 4:20 is again in the guard room. More sleep is out of the question, for the drum beats Reveille at 5 o'clock. Roll-call at 5:15 and at 5:50 the old guard is retired by the new and the man is free to sleep until 11:30. After drill in the afternoon his time is his own until 9 p.m., when he must be in bed to get the necessary rest for another twenty-four hours of duty. Let those who think such a life, governed by tyrannical officers, a snap dismiss their minds of any such notion.

To make things still more trying, the food furnished is not, three-quarters of the time, fit for white men to eat. You quote Capt. John Good as saying, on the night the late poison scare took place, that the men had poached eggs for supper. Now, Mr. Editor, if Capt. Good said what he is quoted as saying, he said it for the purpose of misleading the public as to the real facts; and it really did sound well. Poached eggs, macaroni and cheese, roast beef and mashed potatoes, and stew. No wonder people think we live well. Now, Mr. Editor, an egg has never been seen on the mess table of Company E, unless brought in by the man himself and the waiter coaxed into getting it cooked.

For the month of January we had a white man as head cook. During his service the men received fair treatment, for while there was not always enough for all, what there was was good. But he did not suit the officers' mess because, forsooth, he would not spend all his time concocting dainties for their tender palates.

Can you reasonably expect one small range to cook for 160 men one style of food and, at the same time, serve first-class hotel fare at short order notice, for from ten to fifteen officers? One party must take their meals cold and, naturally, the privates must do so. The white man "left" and the Chinese was re-instated.

Fifth again reigns supreme in the kitchen. It was owing to nothing else that the supposed attempted poisoning was due.

One would naturally think that in the land of the coffee berry good coffee would be accessible to all, but I defy the most learned analyst to find more than a trace of coffee in the article served to us as such, "and that reminds me," as Abe Lincoln would have said. The other day the man on my right at dinner said he would take coffee. His vis-a-vis said tea and held out his cup and was served from the same pot. The coffee man tasted his drink and immediately raised a "kick," declaring that he had been given tea. By this time the tea man had tasted and he growled because he had been given coffee, so suggested an exchange. This was done and both men were satisfied. I leave you to draw your own conclusions.

Yours respectfully,
A PRIVATE OF CO. E.

Honolulu, Feb. 10, 1894.

Keep your friends abroad posted on Hawaiian affairs by sending them copies of the HAWAIIAN GAZETTE, semi-weekly.